IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title to read:

"Torque Transfer Device with Centering Device"

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 6 of page 17 with the following amended paragraph:

As noted, the torque transfer device 10 also includes a centering mechanism 60 for maintaining the strict geometrical relationship between the first and second shafts 20, 30 required for constant velocity operation. As shown in Figs. 2-4, the centering mechanism 60 contains a cam tube 70 that is rotatably received within an internal bore 46 of the intermediate shaft 40. Disposed within the cam tube 70 is a linkage having first and second linkage member extending thertherough. Specifically, the first linkage member as shown in Figs. 2-4 and 10 is formed as~~,~~ a first connecting rod 80 extending between one end of the cam tube 70 and an internal bore 24 of the first shaft 20, and the second linkage member is formed as a second connecting rod 90 extending between the other end of the cam tube 70 and an internal bore 34 of the second drive shaft 30.

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 10 of page 19 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Figures 6 and 10, it will be noted that each connecting rod 80, 90 has first and second straight sections 82, 84 and 92, 94, which are each disposed at an angle β relative to one another. Furthermore, each rod 80, 90 includes two cylindrical bearing surfaces 86, 88 and 96, 98 corresponding with each straight section 82, 84 and 92, 94. One bearing surface 86, 96 of each connecting rod 80, 90 is received within a bearing assembly 74 that is press fit within the corresponding sockets 72 of the cam tube 70 (see for example Figs. 7 and 8). The opposite bearing surface 88, 98 of each connecting rod 80, 90 is received within a bearing assembly 26, 36 disposed within the first and second shafts 20, 30. See for example Figures 3 and 10.

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 14 of page 20 with the following amended paragraph:

In order to move the first and second shafts 20, 30 at equal angles relative to the intermediate shaft 40, the first and second connecting rods 80, 90 of the centering mechanism 60 are rotatably coupled via a joint. In particular, as shown in Figure 6, the first connecting rod 80 includes a key 130 and the second connecting rod 90 includes a matching socket 132. The key and socket 130, 132 define the joint and are sized such that there is a space between the end of the key 132 and the bottom of the socket 132. Accordingly, this allows for slight axial movement between respective connecting rods 80, 90 during operation of the torque transfer device 10.

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 7 of page 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Another source of vibration for the device is the epicyclic movement of the centering device 60 components 70, 80 and 90. In operation, the facing ends of the first and second connecting rods 80, 90 (i.e., the ~~projection~~ key 130 and socket 132) are not aligned with the centerline axis of the intermediate shaft 40. That is, they rotate epicyclically relative to the inside surface (i.e. bore) of the intermediate shaft 40. Likewise, the cam tube 70 would also rotate epicyclically relative to the inside surface of the intermediate shaft. During operation, the epicyclic movement (i.e., unbalanced) of the components 70, 80 and 90 relative to the circular bore of the intermediate shaft 40 can also result in an induced vibration in the torque transfer device 10. This is particularly evident at elevated speeds wherein harmonically induced vibrations may occur. To prevent this vibration, the central section of the cam tube 70 includes a circular lobe 78.

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 18 of page 21 with the following amended paragraph:

The circular lobe 78 rotationally couples ~~the centering device~~ the cam tube 70 to the intermediate shaft 40. The lobe 78 is offset from the ~~epicyclic~~ bore of the cam tube 70 (i.e., where the sockets 72 intersect at the center of the cam tube 70). In this regard, the connecting rods 80, 90 may continue to rotate in an epicyclic manner. However, the offset circular lobe 78 allows the cam tube 70 and connecting rods 80, 90 to remain at a constant rotational distance from the inside surface of the intermediate shaft 40. The outside surface (e.g., perimeter) of the circular lobe 78 is received within a like-sized bearing 48 that may is press fit within a circular inside surface of the intermediate shaft 40 as shown in Figures 9 and 10. The circular lobe 78 rotatably couples the centering mechanism 60 with the inside surface of the intermediate shaft 40, thereby supporting the centering mechanism 60 at its center to increase the mechanism's overall rigidity and thus inhibit vibration. Additionally, the vibrations induced through ~~epicylic~~ epicyclic movement are reduced. That is, the offset lobe 78 results in a more balanced centering mechanism 60. Finally, the constant coupling between the centering mechanism 60 and the intermediate shaft 40 dampens any induced vibrations.

Use of the offset circular lobe ~~79~~ 78 allows the first and second connecting rods 80, 90 to move epicyclically relative to the intermediate shaft 40 as required to produce a self-supporting, self-aligning centering mechanism 60 while eliminating vibrations typically caused by the epicyclic movement of an unsupported centering mechanism within the intermediate shaft 40.